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Message Text

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70
ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 /027 W
---------- 107748
R 241539Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6538
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N-A
TAGS: PINT, MILI, NI
SUBJECT: TWO SPECULATIONS BASED ON ARMED FORCES
PROMOTION LIST

1. ON SENIOR LEVELS AT LEAST, 1974 OCTOBER 1ST NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES PROMOTION LIST SEEMS SMALLER THAN IN PAST YEARS, WITH ONLY THREE OFFICERS NAMED TO FLAG RANK. REASON FOR SMALLER NUMBER OF PROMOTEES IS UNKNOWN, BUT SOME OF THOSE NAMES WHICH DO APPEAR PROVIDE BASIS FOR TWO POSSIBLY NOTE-WORTHY SPECULATIONS.

2. OF THREE OFFICERS PROMOTED TO FLAG RANK, BRIGADIER (TEMPORARY) I. A. AKINRINADE AND ACTING COMMODORE M. A. ADELANWA ARE YORUBAS, AND THEIR PROMOTIONS MAY BE BASED PARTIALLY ON DESIRE TO RESTORE PREVIOUS TRIBAL RATIO OF SENIOR OFFICERS LOST WHEN YORUBA BRIGADIERS ADEKUNLE AND SOTOMI WERE SACKED IN AUGUST (LAGOS 7895). (THIRD PROMOTEE, AIR FORCE TEMPORARY BRIGADIER (M.D.) J. U. EKONG IS LITTLE KNOWN, BUT PROBABLY FROM SOUTH-EASTERN STATE.) AKINRINADE AND ADELANWA ARE AMONG MORE CAPABLE SENIOR NIGERIAN OFFICERS AND THEIR ADVANCEMENT SHOULD MOLLIFY TO SOME EXTENT YORUBA RESENT-MENT OVER SACKINGS AND PLACEMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL DEBAYO IN PRESENT LIMBO STATUS.

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3. OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT

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AKINRIANADE AND NEWLY PROMOTED AIR FORCE COLONEL J. YISA-DOKO WERE IN LINE FOR
MAJOR POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS, AND THEIR PRESENCE ON PROMOTION LIST ADDS SOME CREDENCE TO THESE REPORTS. AKINRINADE SERVED AS ACTING GOVERNOR OF WESTERN STATE IN 1970 AND WAS IN RUNNING TO SUCCEED ADEBAYO AS PERMANT GOVERNOR IN 1971; AT THIS POINT HE MAY BE LEADING CONTENDER TO REPLACE GOVERNOR ROTIMI NEXT YEAR. YISA-DOKO, NIGERIAN AIR FORCE OPERATIONS OFFICER, WAS BORN IN NORTH-WESTERN STATE AND COULD BE IN LINE FOR NORTHERN GOVERNORSHIP OR AS REPLACEMENT FOR CIVILIAN COMMISSIONER (THOUGH NAF MAY RESIST RELEASING ONE OF FEW SENIOR QUALIFIED PILOTS).
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